

Michael Lewis

From: Larry Wannebo [wannebo@uslink.net]
Sent: Sunday, May 03, 2009 8:31 PM
To: David Weirens (BWSR)
Subject: Wetlands rules

Dear Mr. Weirens,

I urge you and your team to require the reporting of exempt wetland uses in the rules.

As a kid, did you ever play marbles and lose your favorite marble? So then, you picked another favorite marble, until you lost it...and so on.

How did you know how many marbles you lost if you didn't count all of your marbles?

Well, that's kind of like losing our wetlands. One little piece at a time and you don't notice it and just move on.

Who is counting?

With all of the science and knowledge proving the importance of wetlands to our water quality, how can an agency adopt a rule that says they are not going to put a reasonable reporting burden on the public if the public only kills the resource one little slice at a time?

Give them an inch and they take a mile. "It's just a little swamp land, what can it hurt to fill it?" Well, it's time to add up your marbles.

I am old enough now (64) and like a saying coined by a friend, "we don't manage the resources, we manage the people."

We know that rules are only as good as their enforcement. Self-enforcement and self-reporting are about the lowest standards we can set for any environmental rules. The lower the standard that is set by law, the less some people will respect that law because "society must not care about this because we can just do it and then forget to report it." And, "hey, my friend has a Bobcat that we can use next weekend."

Given human nature, the idea of encouragement to do the right thing is good, but requiring reporting of wetland impacts is better.

With a preponderance of evidence pointing out the importance of wetlands and with public opinion asking for more protection of our disappearing wetlands, it seems fair to ask a few people to report their wetland impacts.

Please do the right thing.

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